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AUTOMATIC INSTALLATION PROCESS FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

The present invention relates to a method of inserting communications modules into a wireless communication system having at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system transmits wireless either directly or indirectly between pairs of said modules. The invention relates particularly, but not exclusively, to a method of inserting communications modules into a system in which a high degree of reliability is required, such as in a security or fire alarm system.

Wireless communications systems are known in which one or more control modules transmit wireless messages around the system, either directly or indirectly, via successive radio frequency communications modules, each of which is designed to receive a message and transmit the message onwards in the system and is allocated a predetermined position in the order of message transmission. This enables wireless messages to be relayed across relatively large distances without the need for high powered transmitters, which in certain countries are subject to fairly stringent licensing requirements.

Known communications systems of this type suffer from the drawback that if one of the communications modules is moved, reliability of signal transmission paths around the system can no longer be relied upon, or the communications modules must be re-configured, which is a considerably time consuming process. Also, if a new communications module is inserted into the system, it is a fairly laborious process to re-configure the other units in the system (i.e. re-allocate their positions in the order of message transmission) in order to take account of the new unit. In particular, in broadcast systems it is usually necessary to program into the new unit system numbers, unit numbers, type identifiers and so on. The programming of

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these parameters is relatively difficult for untrained personnel, thus increasing the cost and difficulty of operating the system. These numbers are sometimes inserted by means of software, but most often by means of a series of switches (of which there are usually 8 or 16), each of which needs to be set in one of two positions by personnel. This clearly makes setting up the system more labour intensive and therefore increases its cost.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention seek to overcome the above disadvantages of the prior art.

According to an aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of inserting a communications module into a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

- i) causing a said communications module to be inserted into the system to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode; and
- (ii) if said first signal is detected by at least one pair of modules, causing said module by means of a signal from at least one said control module to be installed to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair in said communication mode.

This provides the advantage that the system can be automatically configured as each module is added to the system in such a way that reliability of communication links is

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maximised. In addition, the advantage is provided that difficult procedures such as programming in system numbers and the like are avoided as this can be carried out automatically by the system of the invention.

In a preferred embodiment, the step of the step of causing said communications module to be inserted to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair comprises updating the address of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

In a preferred embodiment, said addresses are consecutively numbered, and said updating step comprises incrementing the numbers of the addresses of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

The method may further comprise the step of testing reliability of communications links between said communications module to be inserted and the modules of said pair.

Said step of testing reliability preferably comprises exchanging at least one message between said communications module to be inserted and said modules of said pair.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of method of automatically setting up a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

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- (i) causing a first communications module to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode;
- (ii) if said first signal is received by at least one said control module, causing said first communications module, by means of a second signal from a said control module which received said first message, to communicate in said communication mode directly with said control module which received said first message;
- (iii) causing a second communications module to transmit a third signal in a set-up mode;
- (iv) if said third signal is detected by said first communications module and said control module which received said first message, causing, by means of a fourth signal from said control module, said second communications module to communicate directly with the first communications module and said control module, and said first communications module to communicate directly with said second communications module, in said communication mode.

The method may further comprise the step of inserting at least one further communications module according to a method as defined above.

The method preferably further comprises the step of testing reliability of communications links between modules intended to communicate directly with each other.

The method may further comprise the step of changing the or each said communications module from said set-up mode to said communications mode by means of a signal from at least one said control module.

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This provides the advantage of enabling the system to automatically make itself ready to communicate wireless messages when the communications modules have been inserted.

As an aid to understanding the invention, a preferred embodiment thereof will now be described, by way of example only and not in any limitative sense, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 shows a first step in a process embodying the present invention for introducing a first communications module into a wireless communication system;

Figure 2 shows a subsequent step to the step of Figure 1;

Figure 3 shows a subsequent step to the step of Figure 2;

Figure 4 shows a subsequent step to the step of Figure 3;

Figure 5 shows a first step in inserting a second communications module into the system of Figures 1 to 4;

Figure 6 shows a subsequent step to the step of Figure 5;

Figure 7 shows a subsequent step to the step of Figure 6;

Figure 8 shows a subsequent step to the step of Figure 7;

Figure 9 shows the communication system in which the master unit, first unit and second unit are inserted;

Figure 10 shows a first step in inserting a third communications module into the system of Figures 1 to 9;

Figure 11 shows a subsequent step to the step of Figure 10;

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Figure 12 shows an alternative step to the step of Figure 11; and

Figure 13 shows a step in which the radio frequency communications links of the system of Figures 10 to 12 are tested.

Referring to Figure 1, a wireless communication system 1 such as a security system or fire alarm system initially comprises a master unit 2 comprising a control module, and a first communications module 3. The process of installing the communications module 3 in the system 1 is begun by switching the master unit 2 to its auto install mode. The first communications module 3 is then switched on, and the switching on of the communications module 3 automatically causes that module to go into its auto install mode. As a result, the first module 3 transmits a "Hello" message containing information identifying the first module 3.

If the master unit 2 receives the "Hello" signal from the first module 3, it responds with an "Ack" (acknowledgement) message, followed by an "init" (initialisation) message (Figure 2). The initialisation message initialises new communications modules (such as the first module 3) as they are installed in the system to give them a unique ID number reflecting their position in the system (i.e. the other modules in the system with which they exchange messages directly).

All communications modules in the system 1, and the master unit 2, have a unique ID number, but the master unit 2 has an additional ID number, i.e. the master unit 2 has ID numbers #0 and a further number equal to the number of communications modules in the system 1 plus 1. This reflects the fact that the master unit 2 is both the beginning and the end of the chain of communication in the system 1. In the arrangement shown in Figure 2, therefore, assuming that no other

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communications modules 3 are already installed in the system 1, the first module 3 is initialised as ID #1.

As shown in Figure 3, the master unit 2 then tests the reliability of the communication link between itself and the first communication module 3 by repeatedly transmitting a radio frequency message to the first module 3, which is then transmitted back to the master unit 2. In order for the test to be successful, the message must be reliably exchanged a predetermined number of times, or the first module 3 is not installed. If the test is successful, on the other hand, the master unit 2 sends a configuration message (Figure 4) to the first module 3 to configure the function of the unit. If this process is successfully completed, the first module 3 is then installed and the master unit 2 can reliably transmit to and receive messages from the first module 3.

Referring to Figure 5, the second communications module 4 to be installed in the system 1 is then switched on, as a result of which it automatically enters its auto install mode and transmits a "Hello" message, in a manner similar to the first module 3. If the "Hello" message is received by the master unit 2 and the first module 3, the second module 4 is automatically installed in a manner similar to the first module 3 and is initialised with ID #1. This causes the master unit 2 to have ID #0 and ID #3, and the ID of the first module 3 is incremented to ID #2 (Figure 6).

The second module 4 is installed between the master unit 2 and the first module 3 as ID #1 because it is known to be able to communicate directly with these two neighbouring units. The reliability of the radio frequency communications links between the second module 4 and the master unit 2, and between the first module 3 and second module 4 is then tested (Figure 7). If this test is successfully carried out, the master unit 2 configures the second module 4 in a manner similar to the first module 3 as shown in Figure 8, and the system 1 is then as

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shown in Figure 9 in which each of the master unit 2 and communications modules 3,4 can communicate directly with the other two. If, on the other hand, the second module 4 is out of radio range of either the master unit 2 or the first module 3, the "Hello" message is not detected by both the master unit 2 and first module 3, as a result of which the second module 4 is not installed.

Referring now to Figure 10, when a third module 5 to be installed is switched on, it transmits a "Hello" signal in a similar manner to the first 3 and second 4 modules. This "Hello" signal must be heard by two other units 2,3 or 4, or the third module 5 will not be installed. If the "Hello" message is received by the first and second modules 3,4 but not by the master unit 2, the third unit 5 is installed between those modules as ID #2, since it is known that the third module 5 can communicate directly with both of those modules. The master unit 2 and first module 3 then increment their ID numbers. The reliability of the radio frequency communication link between the third module 5 and the first and second modules 3,4 is then carried out, and the third module 5 configured if the test is successful.

Referring now to Figure 11, when a fourth module 6 to be installed is switched on (and therefore automatically enters its auto-install mode), it transmits a "Hello" message which must be received by at least two units having consecutive ID numbers (i.e. two units which can communicate directly with each other), otherwise it will not be installed. For example if the "Hello" message is received by the second module 4 (ID #1) and the first module 3 (ID #3) only, it will not be installed (Figure 11). If, on the other hand, the "Hello" message from the fourth module 6 is received by two units having consecutive ID numbers, it will be installed between these two units, as shown in Figure 12. If more than one pair of units having consecutive ID numbers detects the "Hello" message, the fourth module 6 is installed between the pair of

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consecutively numbered units having the lowest ID numbers. For example, if the "Hello" message is received by the master unit 2 and the first 3 and second 4 communications modules, the fourth module 6 is installed between the master unit 2 and second unit 4 with ID #1.

When the fourth module 6 has been initialised with an ID number, the reliability of the radio frequency communication links to that module 6 is tested in the manner described earlier. When the module 6 has then been configured, it is successfully installed, and additional modules can then be installed in an analogous manner. The system 1 can revert to its communication mode.

It will be appreciated by persons skilled in the art that the above embodiment has been described by way of example only and not in any limitative sense, and that various alterations and modifications are possible without departure from the scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method of inserting a communications module into a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:
 - i) causing a said communications module to be inserted into the system to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode; and
 - (ii) if said first signal is detected by at least one pair of modules, causing said module by means of a signal from at least one said control module to be installed to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair in said communication mode.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of causing said communications module to be inserted to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair comprises updating the address of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said addresses are consecutively numbered, and said updating step comprises incrementing the numbers of the addresses of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.
4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims,

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further comprising the step of testing reliability of communications links between said communications module to be inserted and the modules of said pair.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of testing reliability preferably comprises exchanging at least one message between said communications module to be inserted and said modules of said pair.

6. A method of installing a communications module in a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

7. A method of automatically setting up a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

- (i) causing a first communications module to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode;
- (ii) if said first signal is received by at least one said

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control module, causing said first communications module, by means of a second signal from a said control module which received said first message, to communicate in said communication mode directly with said control module which received said first message;

- (iii) causing a second communications module to transmit a third signal in a set-up mode;
- (iv) if said third signal is detected by said first communications module and said control module which received said first message, causing, by means of a fourth signal from said control module, said second communications module to communicate directly with the first communications module and said control module, and said first communications module to communicate directly with said second communications module, in said communication mode.

8. A method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of inserting at least one further communications module by means of a method according to any one of claims 1 to 6.

9. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of testing reliability of communications links between modules intended to communicate directly with each other.

10. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of changing the or each said communications module from said set-up mode to said communications mode by means of a signal from at least one said control module.

11. A method of automatically setting up a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module adapted to transmit wireless messages via a plurality of

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communications modules, wherein each said communications module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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these parameters is relatively difficult for untrained personnel, thus increasing the cost and difficulty of operating the system. These numbers are sometimes inserted by means of software, but most often by means of a series of switches (of which there are usually 8 or 16), each of which needs to be set in one of two positions by personnel. This clearly makes setting up the system more labour intensive and therefore increases its cost.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention seek to overcome the above disadvantages of the prior art.

According to an aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of inserting a communications module into a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

- i) causing a said communications module to be inserted into the system to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode; and
- (ii) if said first signal is detected by at least one pair of modules, causing said module by means of a signal from at least one said control module to be installed to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair in said communication mode.

This provides the advantage that the system can be automatically configured as each module is added to the system in such a way that reliability of communication links is

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maximised. In addition, the advantage is provided that difficult procedures such as programming in system numbers and the like are avoided as this can be carried out automatically by the system of the invention.

In a preferred embodiment, the step of the step of causing said communications module to be inserted to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair comprises updating the address of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

In a preferred embodiment, said addresses are consecutively numbered, and said updating step comprises incrementing the numbers of the addresses of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

The method may further comprise the step of testing reliability of communications links between said communications module to be inserted and the modules of said pair.

Said step of testing reliability preferably comprises exchanging at least one message between said communications module to be inserted and said modules of said pair.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of method of automatically setting up a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

CLAIMS

1. A method of inserting a communications module into a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

i) causing a said communications module to be inserted into the system to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode; and

(ii) if said first signal is detected by at least one pair of modules, causing said module by means of a signal from at least one said control module to be installed to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair in said communication mode.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of causing said communications module to be inserted to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one said pair comprises updating the address of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said addresses are consecutively numbered, and said updating step comprises incrementing the numbers of the addresses of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims,

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further comprising the step of testing reliability of communications links between said communications module to be inserted and the modules of said pair.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of testing reliability preferably comprises exchanging at least one message between said communications module to be inserted and said modules of said pair.

6. A method of installing a communications module in a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

7. A method of automatically setting up a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each said module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

- (i) causing a first communications module to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode;
- (ii) if said first signal is received by at least one said

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RMV/P95332WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/GB00/02777	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 25/08/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G08B25/10			
Applicant CEDARDELL LIMITED et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 6 sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- | | | |
|------|-------------------------------------|---|
| I | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Basis of the report |
| II | <input type="checkbox"/> | Priority |
| III | <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability |
| IV | <input type="checkbox"/> | Lack of unity of invention |
| V | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement |
| VI | <input type="checkbox"/> | Certain documents cited |
| VII | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certain defects in the international application |
| VIII | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Certain observations on the international application |

Date of submission of the demand 29/01/2001	Date of completion of this report 14.12.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority: European Patent Office D-80298 Munich Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 523656 epmu d Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	Authorized officer Van der Zee, C Telephone No. +49 89 2399 2441



**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02777

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

Description, pages:

1,4-9	as originally filed		
2,3,3a	as received on	02/07/2001 with letter of	29/06/2001

Claims, No.:

8-11	as originally filed		
1-7	as received on	02/07/2001 with letter of	29/06/2001

Drawings, sheets:

1/4-4/4	as originally filed
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2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02777

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:
- ☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-11
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-11
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations.
see separate sheet

VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:
see separate sheet

VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:
see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02777

1. There are 4 independent claims, claims 1, 6, 7 and 11, in the same category (method) without any good reason being apparent. The claims are at least partly of overlapping scope and it is not clear exactly in how far they are intended to claim different subject matter, the requirement of using dependencies, Rule 6.4 PCT not having been observed. The set of claims is thus not clear and concise, Article 6 PCT.
2. As a service to the applicant, an opinion will nevertheless be given, as far as possible of at least the independent claims.
3. Independent claims 6 and 11 do not meet the requirement of Article 6 PCT and in particular Rule 6.2(a) PCT, by virtue of the indeterminate (and useless) wording "substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings".
4. US-A-4 638 453 (D1), in particular column 3 lines 46, 47 and 51-53, discloses the method claimed in claim 1, apart from any insertion of a new station. The skilled person will be confronted with the problem of inserting a new station. If stations are chained and designated by successive addresses, each station communicating with the next lower and the next higher addressed module only (which essential features have not even claimed in claim 1!), at least an address of an existing station neighbouring the newly to be inserted station may of course usefully be updated. Thus claim 1 does not meet the requirement of Article 33(3) PCT.
5. Claim 1 claims, in lines 2 and 3, "at least one control module". This wide scope is not balanced by any useful disclosure (Articles 5 and 6 PCT taken in combination, considering the purpose of any patent law). It may be known how to avoid interference from simultaneous signals, but it has not been indicated how control should be shared in this particular case and this is not at all evident. Also, a claim claiming "a" control module would not easily be circumvented by a competitor, as any method using more than one control module would, of course, infringe on a claim claiming "a" control module. Furthermore (and also hypothetically), any later patent would of course only be granted if at least some of the means enabling proper functioning of the more than one control unit were claimed.

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

International application No. PCT/GB00/02777

6. Independent claim 7 essentially claims the same subject matter as claim 1, in different wording and more explicit terms. The same objection as to lack of an inventive step applies.
7. The dependent claims claim trivial subject matter, generally known for its various advantageous properties.

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these parameters is relatively difficult for untrained personnel, thus increasing the cost and difficulty of operating the system. These numbers are sometimes inserted by means of software, but most often by means of a series of switches (of which there are usually 8 or 16), each of which needs to be set in one of two positions by personnel. This clearly makes setting up the system more labour intensive and therefore increases its cost.

Preferred embodiments of the present invention seek to overcome the above disadvantages of the prior art.

According to an aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of inserting a communications module into a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of first communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules, and wherein each said first communications module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further first communications module or to a said control module, and is programmed with respective addresses identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

i) causing a second communications module, which is to be inserted into the system, to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode; and

(ii) if said first signal is detected by at least two said modules capable of communicating directly with each other, causing said second communications module, by means of a second signal from at least one said control module updating the address of one of said modules which detected said first signal, to be installed to communicate directly, when in said communication mode, with two said modules which detected said

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first signal, including the module whose address was updated by said second signal.

This provides the advantage that the system can be automatically configured as each module is added to the system in such a way that reliability of communication links is maximised. In addition, the advantage is provided that difficult procedures such as programming in system numbers and the like are avoided as this can be carried out automatically by the system of the invention.

In a preferred embodiment, the step of the step of causing said communications module to be inserted to communicate directly with said two modules comprises updating the address of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

In a preferred embodiment, said addresses are consecutively numbered, and said updating step comprises incrementing the numbers of the addresses of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

The method may further comprise the step of testing reliability of communications links between said communications module to be inserted and the two modules with which it is to communicate directly when in said communication mode.

Said step of testing reliability preferably comprises exchanging at least one message between said communications module to be inserted and said two modules.

According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a method of method of automatically setting up a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly

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between modules, and wherein each said communications module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

CLAIMS

1. A method of inserting a communications module into a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of first communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules, and wherein each said first communications module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further first communications module or to a said control module, and is programmed with respective addresses identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

i) causing a second communications module, which is to be inserted into the system, to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode; and

(ii) if said first signal is detected by at least two said modules capable of communicating directly with each other, causing said second communications module, by means of a second signal from at least one said control module updating the address of one of said modules which detected said first signal, to be installed to communicate directly, when in said communication mode, with two said modules which detected said first signal, including the module whose address was updated by said second signal.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of causing said communications module to be inserted to communicate directly with said two modules comprises updating the address of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said addresses are

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consecutively numbered, and said updating step comprises incrementing the numbers of the addresses of said modules adapted to transmit messages in the system subsequently to the communications module to be inserted.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of testing reliability of communications links between said communications module to be inserted and the two modules with which it is to communicate directly when in said communication mode.
5. A method according to claim 4, wherein the step of testing reliability comprises exchanging at least one message between said communications module to be inserted and said two modules.
6. A method of installing a communications module in a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of first communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules, and wherein each said first communications module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further first communications module or to a said control module, and is programmed with respective addresses identifying modules with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
7. A method of automatically setting up a wireless communication system comprising at least one control module and a plurality of communications modules, wherein the system is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules, and wherein each said communications module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit said message to a further communications module or to a said control module, and is programmed with a respective address identifying modules

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with which it communicates messages directly when in a communication mode, the method comprising:

- (i) causing a first communications module to transmit a first signal in a set-up mode;
- (ii) if said first signal is received by at least one said

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NE24 2PP (GB).

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(74) Agent: VINSOME, Rex, Martin; Urquhart-Dykes &
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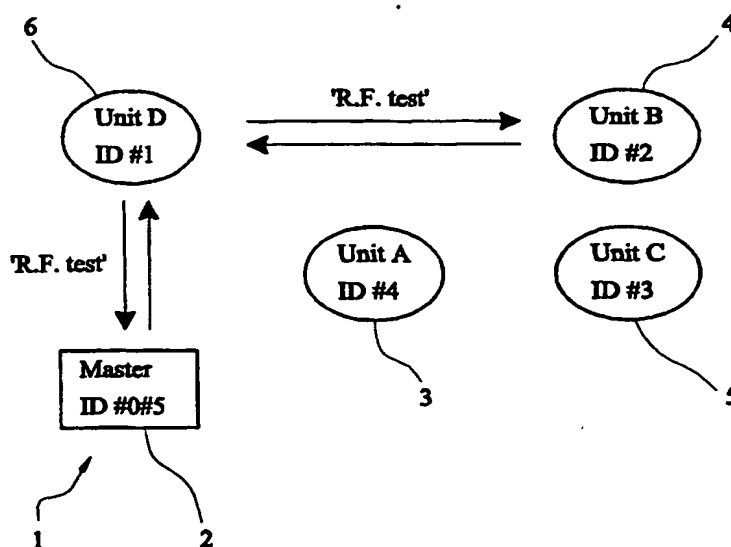
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— *With international search report.*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (*for US only*): **TODD, Robert,**

(54) Title: AUTOMATIC INSTALLATION PROCESS FOR WIRELESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method of inserting a communications module (6) into a wireless communication system (1) comprising at least one control module (2) and a plurality of communications modules (3, 4, 5) is disclosed. The system (1) is adapted to transmit messages either directly or indirectly between modules and each module is adapted to receive a wireless message and transmit a wireless message to a further communications module or to a control module. The communications module (6) is inserted into the system (1) and transmits a first signal in a set-up mode. If the first signal is detected by at least one pair of modules (2, 3, 4, 5), the communications module (6), by means of a signal from a control module (2), is installed to communicate directly with the two modules of at least one pair of modules.

-1/4-

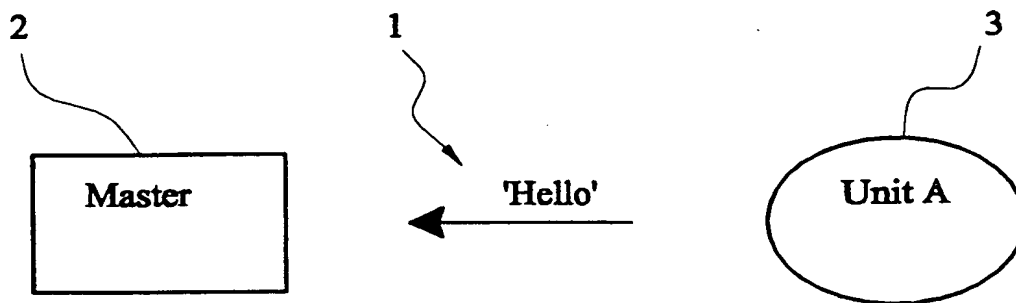


FIG. 1

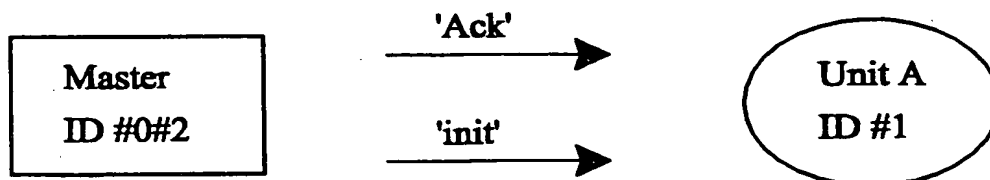


FIG. 2

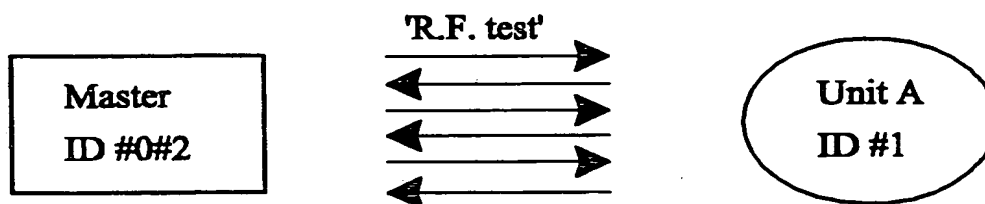


FIG. 3

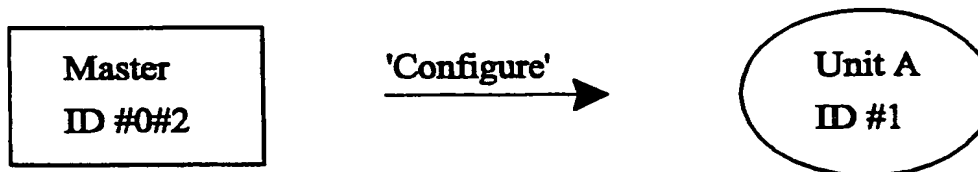
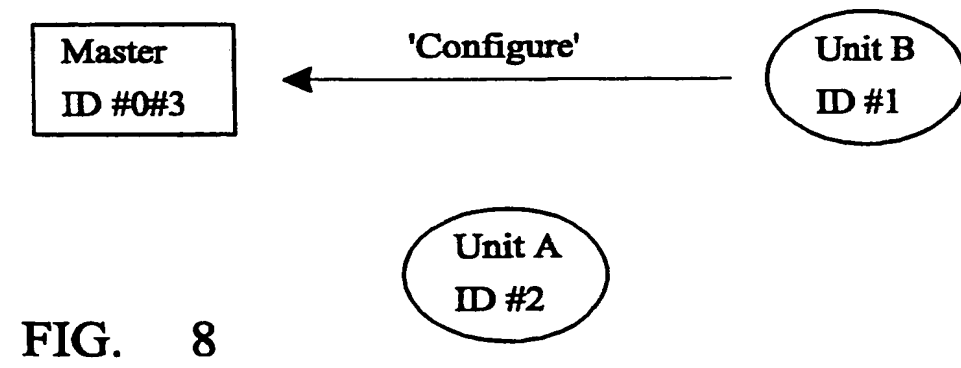
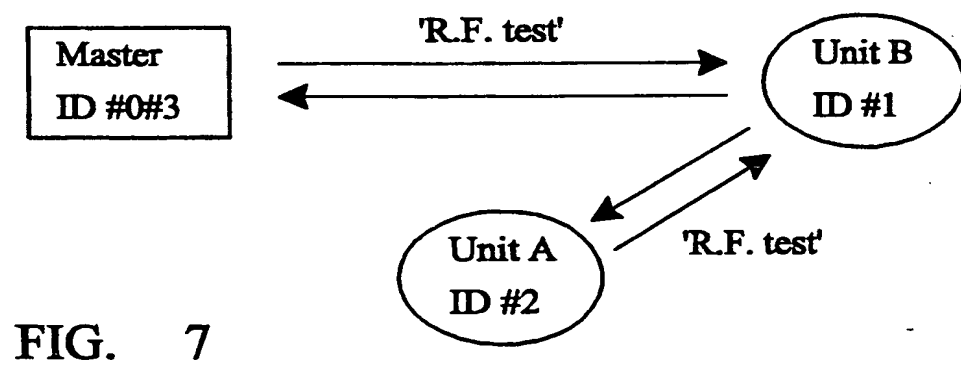
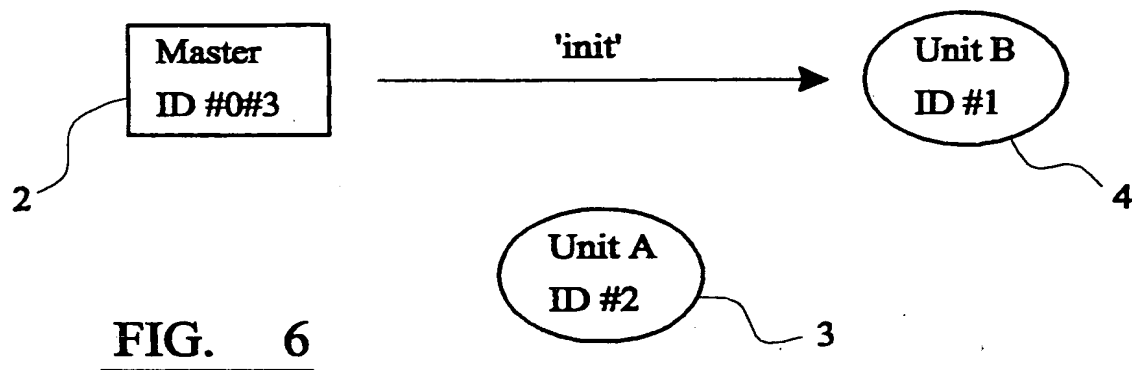
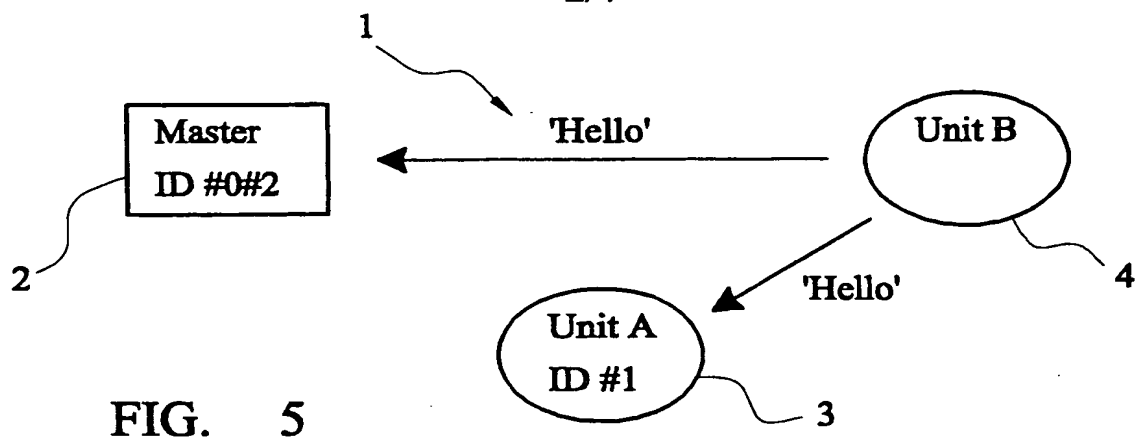


FIG. 4

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-3/4-

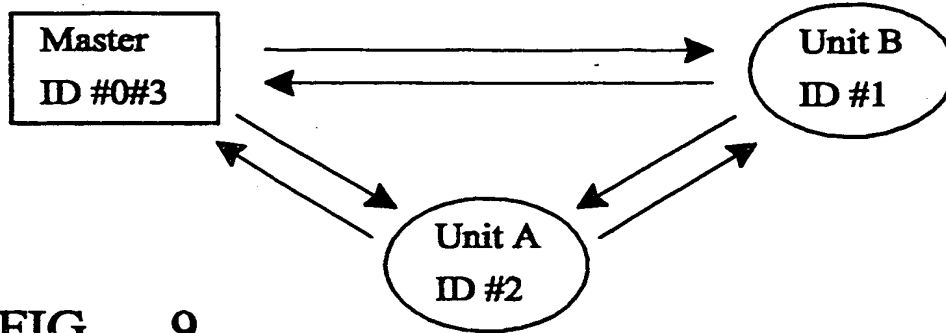


FIG. 9

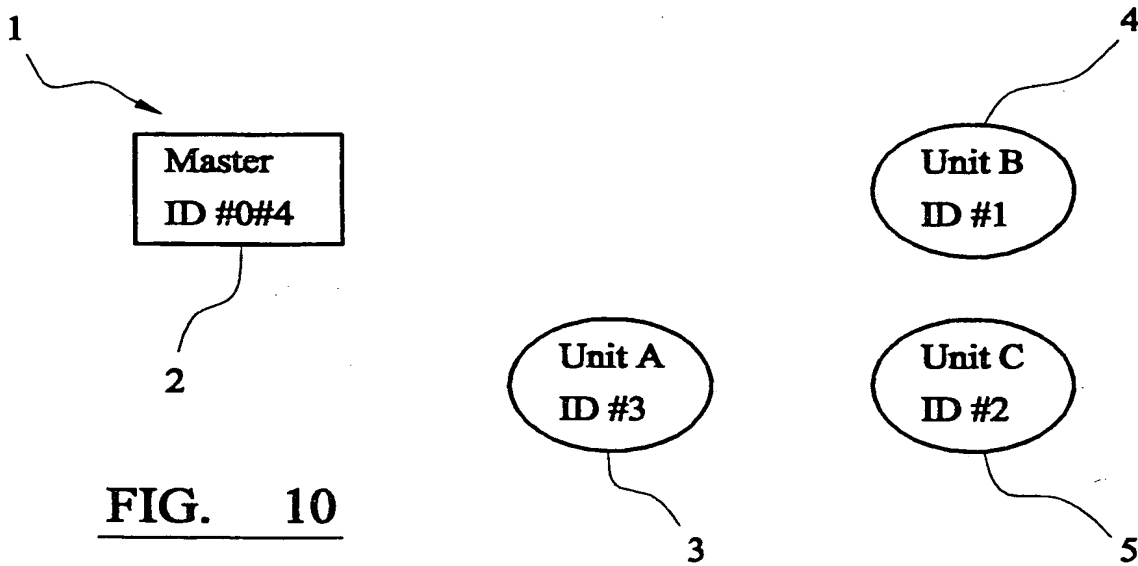


FIG. 10

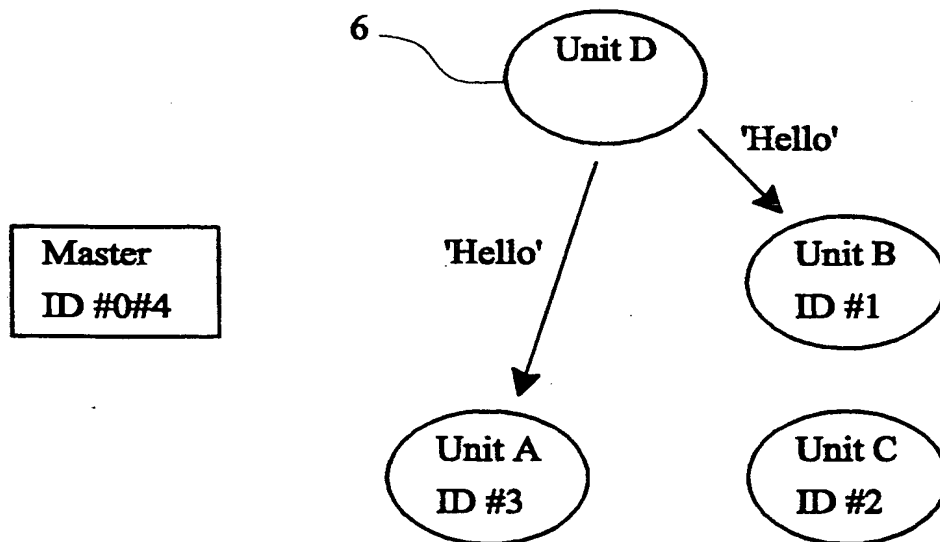
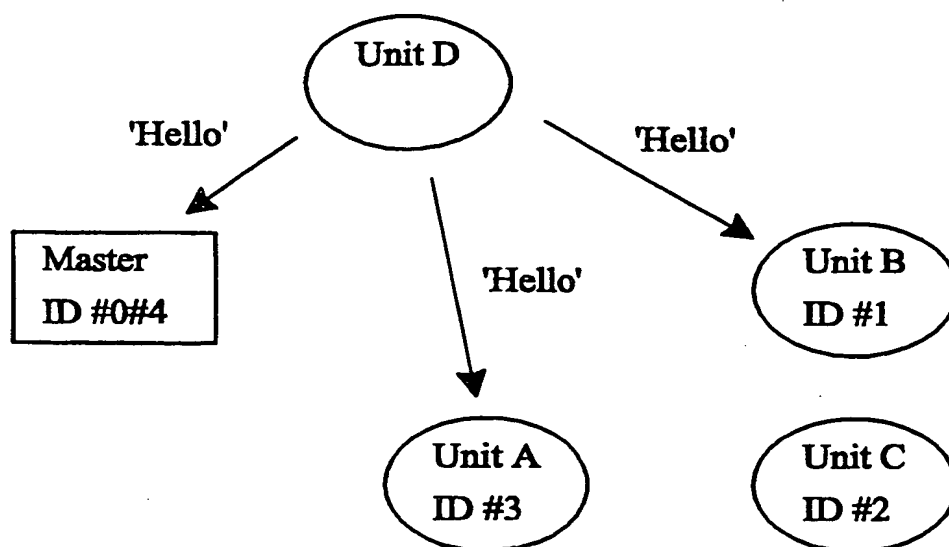
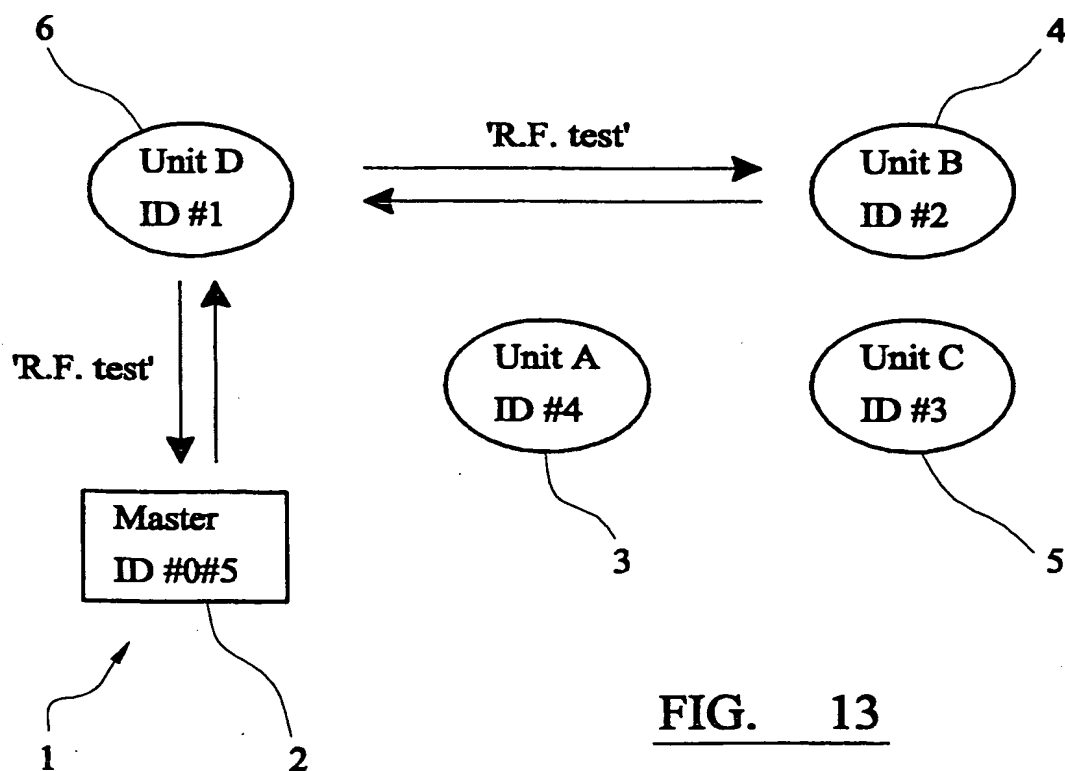


FIG. 11

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FIG. 12FIG. 13

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference RMV/P95332W0	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/GB 00/ 02777	International filing date (day/month/year) 19/07/2000	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 25/08/1999
Applicant CEDARDELL LIMITED et al.		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :

☐ contained in the international application in written form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of Invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ because this figure better characterizes the invention.

13

☐ None of the figures.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

T/GB 00/02777

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G08B25/10 H04L12/28

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G08B H04L H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 638 453 A (GRAN ET AL.) 20 January 1987 (1987-01-20) figure 1 column 2, line 26 - line 65 column 3, line 35 - line 64 ----	1,6,7,11
Y	DE 33 37 648 A (LICENTIA PATENT.VERWALTUNGS-GMBH) 26 February 1987 (1987-02-26) abstract page 6, line 41 -page 7, line 48 ----- -/-	1,6,7,11

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

23 October 2000

Date of mailing of the international search report

31/10/2000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

T/GB 00/02777

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 99 11081 A (KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.) 4 March 1999 (1999-03-04) abstract; figures 1A-2B page 5, line 3 - line 19 page 6, line 21 - line 26 page 6, line 32 -page 7, line 25 page 9, line 34 -page 10, line 3 ----	1,4-7,9, 11
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International Application No

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